

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 9 and 12 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system, which has a fuel cell that generates electrical power by the electrochemical reaction between a fuel gas supplied to an anode and an oxidant gas supplied to a cathode, and a humidifying apparatus that humidifies the gases with water permeable membranes, comprising:

a first humidifier, which is provided in said humidifying apparatus; and

non-porous water permeable membranes, which are provided in said first humidifier to humidify said fuel gas supplied to said anode by means of the moisture contained in off-gas discharged from said fuel cell,

wherein said humidifying apparatus has a second humidifier, and said second humidifier has porous water permeable membranes, which humidify said oxidant gas supplied to said cathode by means of said off-gas.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein:
said first and second humidifiers are so disposed in said humidifying apparatus that said off-gas first passes through said first humidifier and then reaches said second humidifier.

4. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein:
said fuel cell system, said first humidifier and said second humidifier are disposed in series for the flow of said off-gas.

5. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein said off-gas is discharged from the cathode.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein said non-porous water permeable membranes transport water by ion hydration.
8. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 5, wherein said non-porous water permeable membranes transport water by ion hydration.
9. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said porous water permeable membranes transport water by capillary condensation.
10. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell system, which has a fuel cell that generates electrical power by the electrochemical reaction between a fuel gas supplied to the anode and an oxidant gas supplied to the cathode, and a humidifying apparatus that humidifies the gases with water permeable membranes, comprising:
 - a first humidifier, which is provided in said humidifying apparatus and humidifies said fuel gas supplied to said anode by means of the moisture contained in off-gas discharged from said fuel cell; and
 - a second humidifier, which is provided in said humidifying apparatus and humidifies said oxidant gas supplied to said cathode by the off-gas passing through said first humidifier.
11. (Withdrawn) A method of humidifying fuel and oxidant gases supplied to a fuel cell in a humidifying apparatus, comprising:

introducing a moisture containing off-gas discharged from said fuel cell into said humidifying apparatus;

introducing moisture into said fuel gas from said off-gas through water permeable membranes in said humidifying apparatus;

introducing moisture into said oxidant gas from said off-gas through water permeable membranes in said humidifying apparatus; and

supplying said fuel and oxidant gases to said fuel cell.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of humidifying fuel and oxidant gases supplied to a fuel cell in a humidifying apparatus, comprising:

introducing moisture containing off-gas discharged from said fuel cell into said humidifying apparatus;

introducing moisture into said fuel gas from said off-gas through non-porous water permeable membranes in said humidifying apparatus;

introducing moisture into said oxidant gas from said off-gas through porous water permeable membranes in said humidifying apparatus; and

supplying said fuel and oxidant gases to said fuel cell.